Surrender of International funds for AIDS

213. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government have surrendered international funds received for controlling AIDS; and

(b) the reasons for not fully utilising the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The full credit of US $ 84 million could not fully utilised at places by the project closing date i.e. 30-9-97 on account of the slow utilisation of funds by States/UTs due to procedural difficulties. The project closing date has now been extended up to 31-3-1999.

Shortage of Blood in the Country

214. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be a shortage of blood by the end of this year on account of a judgment passed by the Supreme Court last year that all professional blood banks will have to be closed down by December;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid such an eventuality;

(c) whether Government are considering to open atleast one Government approved blood bank in every district in the country with uniform charges; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is overall shortage of blood in the country. The Supreme Court judgement dated 4th January, 1996 directs the Government to take steps to discourage the prevalent system of professional donors, so that professional blood donation is completely eliminated within a period of not more than two years.

(b) As per statement attached (*See below*).

(c) and (d) opening new blood banks is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has provided cash and commodity assistance for upgrading 815 blood banks in different States/Union Territories.

Efforts have, therefore, been directed towards rationalisation of the demand of blood by promoting the use of blood components instead of whole blood wherever possible.

Statement

I. Promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation

For generating blood through voluntary blood donation programme, Government of India have taken a number of steps as follows:

1. A campaign has been launched for motivating people for donating blood voluntarily through specially developed TV spots telecast through Doordarshan at suitable intervals during prime time.
2. Messages are broadcast on voluntary blood donation through Times FM channel in one of their music programmes.
3. National AIDS Control Organisation with the help of Central Health Education Bureau have developed prototype Information Education and Communication material for one to one communication on Voluntary Blood Donation Programme in the form of folders, posters and stickers and the same have been given to various states and UTs for use and reproduction in local languages.
4. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) have initiated a pilot project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities, with a view to fill up the gap between demand and availability of blood through voluntary donations.

The specific objectives of the project being.

(a) To address existing myths, misinformation and inhibitions regarding blood donation from the minds of people through awareness campaigns;

(b) To train communicators to motivate healthy people to become voluntary donors.

(c) To develop computerised system for networking information about voluntary donors and operating blood banks.

Department of Science and Technology have intimated that studies have been initiated in 10 cities for determining the status of blood collection etc. The assessment of the software available for motivating the voluntary blood donors has been completed and proposals for developing new software have been taken up. Apart from this, training modules for motivators are also being develped. Proposals for computerised system for blood banks and networking have also been received from various organisations and are being examined.

Some of the activities included in this programme pertain to development of software (films, slides, posters etc.) for propagation of voluntary blood donationn messages, training of communicators creating database for networking of information etc.

5. Every year, 1st of October, is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, Special campaigns to educate the messes on the need for voluntary donation of blood is undertaken through mass media and special camps for blood collection are organised.

6. A number of steps have been proposed for undertaking an extensive programme for Voluntary Blood Donation. A Committee of Experts have been set up to prepare a Comprehensive National Blood Policy and to work out a mechanism for the promotion of voluntary blood donation programme on an all India basis. A scheme is being framed under the National Blood Transfusion Council for undertaking extensive training programmes for community leaders including school/ college teachers, trade union leaders, prominent citizens etc. to train them as motivators for encouraging voluntary blood donation. For generating the needed blood from voluntary donors it is proposed to have a multi sectoral approach involving NGOs, Defence personnel, Students, Industries and Others.

AIDS Counselling and Guidance Centres in the Country

215. SHRIMATI BASANTI SHARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many AIDS/HIV Counselling and Guidance Centres are there in our country;

(b) how many are in the Government and how many in the NGO Sector;

(c) what are the names and addresses of those centres;

(d) what facilities are given by Government to start such a centre; and

(e) what steps would be taken to encourage the NGOs to start such centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are six such centres in the country.

(b) 1. Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi is under the Administrative Control of Delhi Admn.

2. National AIDS Research Institute, Pune is an Institute of Indian Council of Medical Research New Delhi, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The rest are autonomous bodies and N.G.Os.

(c) 1. Tata Institute of Social Science, Deonar, Bombay-400088.

2. Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi-110002.

3. Vivekananda Education Society, 13/3, Kalicharan Dutta Road, Calcutta-700061.

4. Child in Need Institute, Post Box No. 16742, Calcutta-700027.

5. Christian Medical College, Vellore-632002.